GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:729
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN BIHAR
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper irrigation facilities are not available in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether rivers that originate from Himalayan region of Nepal cause havoc;

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to dig more wells, tubewells to create irrigation facilities in the State;

(d) whether any proposals to construct Dams to tame the rivers emanating from Nepal to check devastation and to harness the water for better and useful purposes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (c) Out of the ultimate irrigation potential of 13347 thousand hectares for the United Bihar State,8124 thousand hectares have been created till March 2000. Development of irrigation facilities, including ground water development, is done by the states themselves as per their priorities with provision of necessary funds.

(b)(d)&(e) The rivers originating from Himalayan region of Nepalcause floods in Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar. The issue of construction of dams on river Kamalabalan, Kosi and other rivers originating from Nepal was discussed at the Secretary level from 1st to 3rd October, 2000 during the meeting of the Joint Committee on Water Resources whereinthe two sides agreed to hold talks at expert level and decided about opeining up of project/field offices for preparation of Detailed Project Report(DPR) of Sapt Kosi High Dam Project. For Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Mahakali (Sarda in India) an India-Nepal Joint Project Office has already been opened in Kathmandu in December 1999 withthe mandate of preparing of joint DPR.As decided in the Secretarylevel meeting, an Indian team has visited Nepal for jointly identifying projects relating to development of small/medium hydropower projects in Nepal for mutual benefit.